

Disability Awareness Month

**BUILDING COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS –
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY (N.O.D.)**

In cooperation with the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) in Washington, D.C., this packet is designed to assist interested volunteers in recruiting N.O.D. support throughout Indiana. Currently, Indiana has more than 100 communities that are part of the “N.O.D. network,” but many more are needed.

While it would be ideal for your community to announce the formation of a N.O.D. committee during Disability Awareness Month in March, please be aware that your membership as an official N.O.D. “Community Partner” goes beyond March. You will receive materials and correspondence from N.O.D. in Washington, D.C., as well as from the Indiana Governor’s Planning Council for People with Disabilities, the official Indiana N.O.D. liaison. The Governor’s Planning Council will make you aware of conferences, networking events and success stories from other Indiana Community Partners.

This packet includes general background information on N.O.D., the Community Partners program, and resources to help your community get involved.

What is N.O.D.?

N.O.D. was founded in 1982 to promote full participation in all aspects of community life by more than 54 million men, women and children with physical and mental disabilities in America. N.O.D. is a private, not-for-profit national organization and the only one of its kind concerned with all age groups and all disability issues.

Community Partnership Program

N.O.D. believes the best way to achieve the full participation of people with disabilities is through local planning and action. Accordingly, N.O.D. has established the Community Partnership Program – a network of nearly 4,000 towns, cities and counties nationwide.

It is easy for a town, city or county to become a N.O.D. Community Partner. The mayor (or county chairperson) designates a representative for a two-year term, and indicates his or her name on the designation form (the form can be obtained from N.O.D. on request). The mayor (or county chairperson) signs the form and returns it to N.O.D. The community then becomes a member of the Community Partnership Program (CPP). There is no cost to become a Community Partner.

N.O.D. and the local representative stay in touch. The local representative receives an information packet containing a manual on how to organize a Community Partnership Program as well as other helpful materials. N.O.D. encourages all Community Partners to form or strengthen local committees, to set community goals and objectives, and to lead in the implementation of disability programs and projects.

Because the role of the CPP representative is so important, careful consideration should be given when making this appointment. For the local program to have the greatest potential for realizing its goals, the CPP representative must be able to maintain contact with N.O.D. and have the time to make sure a local committee is organized and doing its work.

Programs of Community Partners

N.O.D.'s Community Partners undertake many different kinds of activities. Some communities work to improve attitudes toward persons with disabilities; some expand educational and employment opportunities, address transportation needs, or expand participation in recreational, social, religious and cultural activities. Others work to eliminate barriers at shopping centers, hotels, churches, voting places, theaters, lecture and concert halls and other public buildings. There is no limit to the kind of projects Partners can undertake. The program is established by the community.

N.O.D. maintains a clearinghouse of information about programs coordinated by its Community Partners so they can learn from each other. N.O.D. also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Report*, which contains ideas and information for Community Partners.

Annual Awards Program

N.O.D. conducts an annual cash awards competition for towns, cities and counties nationwide, with prizes totaling \$30,000 to recognize outstanding local disability programs and encourage their replication. Community Partners automatically receive the application in plenty of time for submitting entries. United Parcel Service is the co-sponsor of the competition.

How Your Community Benefits Through Its Partnership with N.O.D.

You and your community become a part of a national Program Information Network (PIN) committed to increasing the participation of people with disabilities in the mainstream of American life. This computer-based referral system puts you in contact with other Community Partners in your area for mutual exchange of program information and support.

Here are some benefits:

- You have instant access to information about federal disability legislation from Washington, D.C.
- You receive N.O.D.'s quarterly newsletter, *Report*, with updates on national disability issues, resources and the successes of other Community Partners.
- You receive technical assistance upon request and "how-to" materials.
- You receive press releases for use in local media.
- You benefit from our national advertising campaign promoting awareness and positive public attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

Indiana and the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.)

The Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities is the state's liaison with N.O.D. in Washington, D.C. To date, there are more than 109 Community Partners (CPPs) in Indiana.

One way the Council assists in strengthening the N.O.D. network of Community Partners is by publishing a monthly newsletter, *On Target*, which is mailed to CPP representatives and other interested parties throughout the state. The newsletter focuses on innovative success stories

of N.O.D. activities being implemented in Indiana's cities and towns. Updates from N.O.D. in Washington and new resources are included as well.

The Council maintains personal contact with many of the local N.O.D. representatives to learn of innovative programs or ideas to share with other Indiana communities. The goal for Indiana's N.O.D. program is to have every town, city and community designate a N.O.D. representative and become a "Community Partner."

If you would like to be a N.O.D. representative for your community or would like to start receiving *On Target* free of charge, please contact the Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities at 150 W. Market St., Suite 628, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-7770 (voice), (317) 232-7771 (TT) or GPCPD@gpcpd.org (e-mail).

"Calling on America Campaign" – The First Steps

Jim Brady's Calling on America Campaign encourages people to meet a great challenge: achieve the full acceptance and participation in every aspect of life of Americans with disabilities. The implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has strengthened the campaign's momentum and commitment.

Brady, who is vice chairperson of N.O.D., the Community Partners across America and N.O.D., are calling on leaders in all sectors to help release the tremendous human potential of our nation's largest minority.

A successful Calling on America Campaign in your community requires the support and involvement of many people, but any individual or group can initiate the campaign. Here are the first steps to take:

1. Contact your local mayor or chief county official to find out if your town, city or county is a N.O.D. Community Partner. If yes, contact your local N.O.D. representative and offer to help. If not, identify an organization in the community that represents people with disabilities – or start one – and ask your chief elected official to enter your community in the Community Partnership Program.

2. Identify groups that you think will make your campaign successful, for example, organizations of and for people with disabilities; business and labor groups; educational and religious institutions; women's, youth and community service groups; veterans' organizations; and professional groups.

3. Call a planning meeting of representatives from these groups and invite other interested individuals. People with disabilities should play the most prominent role. Discuss needs, set goals and priorities, and develop programs and projects for your local campaign. Assign responsibilities for each activity.

4. Set a locally appropriate date as the official launch date for your community campaign. You might want to use July 26, the anniversary of the implementation of the ADA.

5. Notify your state's N.O.D. representative, the Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities, with your plans by calling (317) 232-7770.

CALLING ON AMERICA CAMPAIGN AIDS

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM N.O.D.

To support local volunteers and groups in planning and carrying out Calling on America community campaigns, N.O.D. has prepared a number of campaign aids. Information on how to obtain these ready-to-use materials is available by writing to N.O.D. at 910 16th St., NW, Washington D.C. 20006 or calling (202) 293-5960 (voice) or (202) 293-5968 (TT). Many of the materials can be printed or downloaded from the N.O.D. Web site at: www.nod.org. The N.O.D. Programs link provides information about successful community programs throughout the United States.

1. **1995 N.O.D./Louis Harris Survey on Employment of People with Disabilities** is a 63-page survey of corporate executives. It reflects positive attitudes and progress in the area of employment of people with disabilities. Copies are available for \$25 each.
2. **"Closing the Gap"** is a 30-page summary of the 1994 N.O.D./Louis Harris Survey, available for \$30 each.
3. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Fact Sheet.** Brief statement of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Contains telephone numbers and addresses for additional information. Single copies are available at no cost.
4. **That All May Worship.** An interfaith handbook to assist congregations, denominational groups and seminaries in welcoming people with disabilities. Each copy is \$10. Discounts on large orders.

5. **Loving Justice: The ADA and the Religious Community**. A companion to That All May Worship that clarifies the relationship between the Americans with Disabilities Act, other relevant disability laws and the religious community. Each copy is \$10. Discounts on large orders.
6. **From Barriers to Bridges** builds on That All May Worship and Loving Justice. It fosters dialogue between people with disabilities, their family members, religious leaders and the larger community and provides guidance needed to hold a “That All May Worship” conference and to promote other community-building activities. Each copy is \$10. Discounts on large orders.
7. **Guide to Organizing a Community Partnership Program** describes the role of a Community Partner and provides easy to follow tips and checklists.
8. **Community Partnership Program Fact Sheet** explores facts and general information on the Community Partnership Program and is updated yearly.
9. **Start on Success Program Fact Sheet** gives information on internships for students with disabilities.
10. **Community Award Winner Booklet** summarizes winning entries that are helpful to communities seeking good ideas to replicate. Includes N.O.D./United Parcel Service Community Awards Competition entry form.
11. **National Organization Partnership Program Brochure** highlights winning chapters of national cash awards program.
12. **Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Brochure** is a planning guide for communities. Camera-ready copy is available.
13. **N.O.D. Annual Report** describes activities of the organization.
14. **N.O.D. Brochure** is a brief overview of the programs.
15. **N.O.D. Logo Sheet** is one sheet of N.O.D. camera-ready logos in various sizes for letterhead and stationery.
16. **N.O.D. Fact Sheet** has facts and general information on N.O.D.